dear jim, 12/10/76

this is an ill-wind day. with today's mail a set of bound proofs from harper & row of you'd never gues s what - a book from mckinley's playboy crap!

it is without index but a thumbing of the pages discloses that the book contains the thievery even from hule against which I warned playboy as well of of my work attributed to ghosts.

when playboy and mckinley do this after they are on notice!

i will not now write further about what you will find in the enclosed carbon of my letter to playboy.

but i do want you to know that there is a big difference: happer & row do business about a half-hour from here - in maryland.

service and jurisdiction are no problem.

without pretending any legal knowledge i also want you to know that mine is the loggest listing or work in the bibliography and my permission has never been asked.

i have asked a lawyer friend to see if he can locate any maryland lawyer who is expert in publishing law. i will then turn the name or names over to you. publishing is a fairly large business in baltimore and there are large publishers other than harper & row who have maryland operations.

without thinking this through it appears to me that new opportunities for doing something about these rippers-off present themselves.

the timing is good.

does this constitute a commercial conspiracy, at least by mckinley and playboy, both of whom i had on separate notice.

does it constitute negligence or other fault by harper & row when they list my work in a bibliography and do not have permission, did not even ask it?

i did not tell harper but it twice rejected whitewash, once when i tried in person and once when one of its salesmen, having read the manuscript, predicted commercial success for it. it then owned the magazine, which turned it down. and it is the other half of priscilla's contract on marina's book. this salesman introduced me to the project manager on it in early june 1966 so i could help him persuade harper's to break that contract on which he told me their losses to then had passed into six figures. as i remember it his name is wright and he is from texas.

you know they did manchester.

boy do they have a record!

best,